

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An apparatus for regulating a flow of fluid in a tube, comprising:
2 a housing comprising a passage configured to at least partially receive the
3 tube;
4 an adjustment mechanism rotatably coupled to the housing and selectively
5 configurable between a first position and a second position; and
6 a stopper at least partially provided in the housing and coupled to the
7 adjustment mechanism;
8 wherein the stopper is configured to engage the tube when the adjustment
9 mechanism is rotated from the first position to the second position thereby constricting
10 the tube.
- 1 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a curved
2 portion having an inner surface configured to at least partially surround the tube.
- 1 3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the curved portion of the housing
2 comprises a flange for securing the tube in the passage.
- 1 4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the stopper is configured to constrict
2 the tube by pressing the tube against the inner surface of the curved portion.
- 1 5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the stopper comprises a beveled
2 surface for engaging the tube, the beveled surface being angled so that the tube is urged
3 toward the flange.
- 1 6. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the stopper is threadably coupled to a
2 threaded shaft that is threadably coupled to the adjustment mechanism so that rotation of
3 the adjustment mechanism results in movement of the stopper.

1 7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the housing further comprises a guide
2 that prevents the stopper from rotating relative to the housing as the adjustment
3 mechanism is rotated.

1 8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the stopper at least partially restricts
2 the flow of fluid in the tube when the adjustment mechanism is in the first position.

1 9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the flow of fluid in the tube is not
2 restricted by the stopper when the adjustment mechanism is in the second position.

1 10. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the flow of fluid in the tube may be
2 varied when the adjustment mechanism is configured between the first position and the
3 second position.

1 11. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to at least
2 partially receive a tube at different locations along a length of the tube.

1 12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the housing may be moved to
2 different locations along the length of the tube by a user.

1 13. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the stopper is a wedge.

1 14. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the tube is a garden hose.

1 15. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the housing, adjustment mechanism,
2 and stopper are made from plastic.

1 16. An apparatus for controlling a flow of fluid in a hose, comprising:
2 a body having a channel for at least partially receiving the hose, the
3 channel comprising a curved portion having an inner surface configured to at least
4 partially surround a first portion of the hose;
5 a valve rotatably coupled to the body and configured to selectively move
6 between a first position and a second position; and
7 a clamp at least partially provided in the body and coupled to the valve,
8 the clamp being configured to control the flow of fluid through the first portion of the
9 hose;
10 wherein the clamp controls the flow of fluid through the first portion of
11 the hose by engaging the hose such that the flow of fluid through the first portion of the
12 hose increases or decreases as the valve is moved between the first position and the
13 second position.

1 17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the curved portion of the channel
2 comprises a lip for securing the hose in the channel.

1 18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the clamp is configured to compress
2 the hose by pressing the hose against the inner surface of the channel.

1 19. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the clamp comprises a surface that is
2 curved so that the hose is urged toward the lip.

1 20. The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the clamp is threadably coupled to a
2 threaded rod that is threadably coupled to the valve so that rotation of the valve results in
3 movement of the clamp.

1 21. The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the body further comprises a guide
2 that prevents the clamp from rotating relative to the body as the valve is rotated.

1 22. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the clamp at least partially restricts
2 the flow of fluid in the first portion of the hose when the valve is in the first position.

1 23. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the body may be re-positioned at
2 different locations along a length of the hose by a user such that the curved portion of the
3 channel at least partially surrounds a second portion of the hose.

1 24. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the clamp is a wedge.

1 25. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the body may be positioned on the
2 hose between a water source and a water accessory.

1 26. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the hose comprises a garden hose.

1 27. A method of producing a valve for controlling a flow of fluid in a hose
2 having a diameter, comprising:
3 providing a valve configured to couple to the hose between a water source
4 and a water accessory, wherein the valve comprises:

5 a housing having a passage configured to at least partially receive
6 the hose, the passage comprising a curved portion having an inner surface configured to
7 at least partially surround the hose,

8 an adjustment mechanism rotatably coupled to the housing and
9 selectively configurable between a first position and a second position; and

10 a clamp at least partially provided in the housing and coupled to
11 the adjustment mechanism, wherein the clamp is configured to engage the hose when the
12 adjustment mechanism is rotated from the first position to the second position;

13 configuring the valve to be positionable along a length of the hose so that
14 the housing of the valve at least partially receives the hose; and

15 configuring the valve so that activating the valve changes the diameter of
16 the hose, thereby controlling the flow of fluid in the hose.

1 28. The method of Claim 23, wherein activating the valve comprises moving
2 the adjustment mechanism provided on the valve between the first position and the
3 second position.

1 29. The method of Claim 24, wherein activating the valve causes the clamp
2 that is coupled to the adjustment mechanism to constrict the diameter of the hose.

1 30. The method of Claim 25, further comprising configuring the valve to be
2 re-positionable along the length of the hose.